

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A preportioning bag used in food operations where a bulk food supply is divided into portions of smaller size, individual portions are located in a bag, and the bag is stored for use at a later date, comprising:
 - a. a front wall;
 - b. a back wall;
 - c. said front wall and back wall joined so that a main body having closed side and bottom edges is defined;
 - d. at least one vent formed in said main body; and
 - e. said front and back walls constructed of a material that will withstand freezing and heating.
2. The preportioning bag of claim 1 wherein the material of the front and back walls is High Molecular Weight-High Density Polyethylene.
3. The preportioning bag of claim 1 wherein the at least one vent is a slit.
4. The preportioning bag of claim 3 wherein the slit is semi-circular.
5. The preportioning bag of claim 1 wherein there are a plurality of vents that are formed in the front and back walls.

6. The preportioning bag of claim 1 further comprising identification indicia printed on the main body.

7. The preportioning bag of claim 6 wherein the identification indicia includes a day of the week.

8. The preportioning bag of claim 7 wherein the day of the week is printed in at least two languages.

9. The preportioning bag of claim 7 wherein the main body is color-coded to the day of the week printed thereon.

10. The preportioning bag of claim 6 wherein the identification indicia includes a blank for marking information.

11. The preportioning bag of claim 1 further comprising a central plastic strip connected to the main body by a perforated line.

12. The preportioning bag of claim 11 wherein the central plastic strip includes an opening adapted to receive a peg of a saddle structure.

13. A system used in food operations where a bulk food supply is divided into portions of smaller size, individual portions are located in a bag, and the bag is stored for use at a later date, comprising:

- a. a plurality of preportioning bags, each bag including:
 - i) a front wall;
 - ii) a back wall;
 - iii) said front wall and back wall joined so that a main body having closed side and bottom edges is defined;
 - iv) at least one vent formed in said main body; and
 - v) said front and back walls constructed of a material that will withstand freezing and heating;
- b. a saddle structure supporting the plurality of preportioning bags.

14. The system of claim 13 further comprising a central plastic strip to which the plurality of preportioning bags are joined by perforated lines, said central plastic strip resting on the saddle structure so that the preportioning bags are mounted thereon.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the saddle structure includes a peg and the central plastic strip includes an opening that engages the peg of the saddle structure.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the material of the front and back walls is High Molecular Weight-High Density Polyethylene.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein each of the plurality of preportioning bags is marked with a day of the week and color-coded to that day of the week.

18. A method of storing and preparing food comprising the steps of:
 - a. receiving a bulk food supply;
 - b. dividing the bulk food supply into individual food portions;
 - c. providing preportioning bags constructed with at least one vent and of a material that will withstand freezing and heating;
 - d. filling the preportioning bags with the individual food portions;
 - e. freezing the filled preportioning bags; and
 - f. heating the filled preportioning bags for serving.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein the filled preportioning bags are heated by microwave.
20. The method of claim 18 wherein the filled preportioning bags are heated by steam.